The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific
Chapter 1
Women in War

THE SOUTH PACIFIC, 1951

APPLESAUCE!

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

KAFOOM

MY TOMBSTONE WILL SAY, "PUT **GUNS** ON THE **PROTOTYPES!**"

CHAKKACHAKKACHAKKA

WHY DOESN'T THAT FOOL FIGHT BACK?

MAYBE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY **GUNS.**

IN THAT CASE, WHY'D HE COME ALL THE WAY OUT **HERE** JUST TO GET HIMSELF **KILLED?**

ROPE-A-DOPE!

TWAAANG

GOT 'EM!

VWRRRR

HIYA.

SPLUK

TICKA TICKA

BYE, NOW.

STILL FLYIN'?! THESE THINGS ARE **TOUGH.**

BOOM!!

THEY DON'T PLAY NICE NEITHER.

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

COMIN' UP TO THIS ONE. YOU GUYS GET THE JET TO SAFETY.

BRATTA BRATTA

TWANG

PLANG

PLINK

TINKA TINK

ROGER!

I'M NOT EVEN SCRATCHIN' THE PAINT!

BRATTA TATTA BRATTA

THEY'RE CLEARING OUT ANYWAY.

SPREAD OUT, MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT GROUPING UP TO COME BACK FOR US.

HEY! HEY!

TOTAL LOSS OF POWER, AVIONICS ARE SHOT, MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.

--CAN'T HEAR ME, BUT LOOK, Y'DOPE! LAND ON THE BEACH!

YEAH, I KNOW THERE'S AN ISLAND, BUDDY. POINTING AT IT WON'T MAKE THIS LANDING ANY EASIER!

TOO STEEP!

TOO FAST!

FWOOOM

NO, NO, NO!

FWHUMP

GREAT.

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS...?

IS THAT...?

...COMING STRAIGHT FOR ME, YES.

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

HORSEFEATHERS!

TING

TINK

SPOW

PANG

PWANG!

FOOMP

CLANK

KACHAK

CLACK

CLICK

RETRACT

WRRRRRR

GOTTA PRESENT FOR YA.

TIC TIC TIC

ENJOY!

SNAP

FWOOSH

WHOA!

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

DAMN THING CAME TO A STOP IN MID-AIR!

TIC TIC TAK!

BOOM

?!

THEY'RE BREAKING OFF!

FOR REAL THIS TIME?

LOOKS IT.

RADIO THE SHIP.

FWSSSHHHHH

UM. THANKS, GUYS.

A GIRL?!

YEAH, SOMETIMES THAT HAPPENS.

YOUR JET'S SEEN BETTER DAYS, I'M GUESSIN'.

YOU. BUT. YOU. JETPACK! GIRL!

BETTER GET USED TO IT.

SOON...

YOU'RE LUCKY WE FOUND YOU WHEN WE *DID*. THAT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TUSSLED WITH THOSE *FOO FIGHTERS*, BUT IT IS THE CLOSEST THEY'VE *EVER* BEEN TO OUR LANES.

CAP'S *NOT* GONNA LIKE THAT.

QUESTION IS, WHAT WERE *YOU* DOING THIS FAR OUT?

NO, NO. *I'M* ASKING THE QUESTIONS. IN ORDER: FLYING SAUCERS? JETPACKS? *AIR-SHIP?!*

THOSE ARE *HARDLY* QUESTIONS, ROBO.

HWONNNNNK

HANG ON. WE'RE TAKING OFF.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

I *TOLD* YOU WE'RE TAKING OFF.

BWAAAAAAR

TAKING OFF TO WHERE?

SHE-DEVIL ISLAND. WE GOTTA UNLOAD WHAT WE RAIDED BEFORE WE *GET* RAIDED. *AND* CAP'LL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THOSE ROCKET SHIPS. *PLUS,* WE GOTTA SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT GETTING *YOU* BACK WHERE YOU BELONG.

NAME'S HAZEL, BY THE WAY.

YOU DON'T *LOOK* LIKE A HAZEL.

AND *YOU* DON'T LOOK LIKE A GUY WHO WANTS TO *SWIM* HOME, BUT YOU'RE TALKIN' ME INTO IT.

WE'LL *ALL* BE SWIMMING HOME IF YOU GUYS *INSIST* ON DOING EXTENDED BURNS ON MY ENGINES LIKE THAT.

ROBO, MEET *LAUREN,* OUR RESIDENT GREASE MONKEY AND *WORRY-WORT.*

WELL, *SOMEONE'S* GOTTA WORRY ABOUT HOW THIS BOAT'S SUPPOSED TO STAY IN THE...

...THE.

IS THAT FOR ME?

'FRAID NOT.
IT'S MY PLANE.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
THINK SO? I'M NOT SURE SHE'LL FLY AGAIN.
CONSIDER THE *FULL* BREADTH OF MY *GENIUS* AT YOUR DISPOSAL. IF I CAN KEEP *THIS* TUB IN THE AIR, I CAN MAKE *THAT* THING FLY AGAIN.
CLANKA CLANKA GRAAAANK
DFEHHH
WHAT HAVE YOU *APES* DONE TO MY BOAT NOW?
BEST WE GET OUTTA HERE WHILE THE GETTIN'S *GOOD.*

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. WHERE'D THIS SHIP COME FROM? OR THE ROCKETPACKS? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

YOU REALLY HAVEN'T HEARD OF THE FLYING SHE-DEVILS?

HE IS MAINLAND. THEY DON'T KNOW. THEY THINK WAR IS OVER.

VAL, MEET ROBO. ROBO, THIS IS VALERYA. SHE WAS A PILOT IN THE WAR. RUSSIAN.

I FLEW WITH SOME RUSSIANS BEFORE THE WAR.

YOU GUYS ARE SOMETHING ELSE.

C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE BRIDGE. THE VIEW IS AMAZING.

BUT WHAT'D SHE MEAN ABOUT THE WAR NOT BEING OVER?

WE KNOW.

THE WAR *ENDED*, BUT IT'S NOT *OVER.*

THE PACIFIC, WELL, IT'S LIKE THE *WILD WEST* NOW.

LAW ONLY GOES SO FAR AS YOUR GUNS CAN SHOOT.

ALSO, THERE'S AIR PIRATES.

HAZEL. YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE VIEW.

SHE-DEVIL ISLAND

YOU'RE *LATE.*

SORRY, BOSS. HAD TO RESCUE *THIS* GUY FROM FLYING SAUCERS.

YOUR ROUTE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN YOU ANYWHERE *NEAR* THEIR TERRITORY.

DON'T I KNOW IT. THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER.

SAUCERS MADE MINCEMEAT OUT OF HIS PLANE. WE COULDN'T JUST *LEAVE* HIM OUT THERE.

I SUPPOSE NOT. *CAPTAIN* MAY CARTER. I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS OUTFIT.

YOU GUYS, YOU DID ALL THIS?

A FEW OF LAUREN'S CRAZY IDEAS AND A LOT OF ELBOW GREASE.

BUT YOU'RE ALL LADIES.

HE'S ABOUT AS SMART AS HE *LOOKS*, ISN'T HE.

THAT WAS MY CONCLUSION AS WELL, CAP.

I IMAGINE YOU'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR OPERATION.

HAZEL, CAN I TRUST YOU TO OVERSEE THE UNLOADING WHILE I SHOW OUR GUEST AROUND LIKE A WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA?

WILL DO.

CAPTAIN CARTER, I WOULDN'T KNOW *WHERE* TO BEGIN.

LET'S START WITH THE ***BIG*** QUESTION. WHY IS THERE AN UNCHARTED ISLAND POPULATED BY WOMEN SALVAGING ABANDONED MILITARY BASES AND RAIDING LOCAL MERCENARIES?

*YOU ATTACK **MERCE-NARIES?***

WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ***IDEA*** WHAT THE JAPANESE AND AMERICAN NAVIES LEFT BEHIND? ALL THOSE AIR STRIPS? FUEL DEPOTS? BUNKERS ***FULL*** OF WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY? IT ***RESHAPED*** THE PACIFIC.

THERE'S ENOUGH FORGOTTEN MATERIEL OUT THERE TO WAGE ***ANOTHER*** WAR. PEOPLE ARE FINDING IT. THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY ***GOOD*** PEOPLE.

WHAT WE DO IS: WE TRY TO FIND IT ***FIRST.*** OR WE ***TAKE*** IT FROM THE BAD PEOPLE WHO DO.

*YOU'RE **PIRATES.***

ETHICAL PIRATES.

*HOW'S **THAT** WORK?*

WELL, WE SAVED ***YOUR*** LIFE FOR ONE.

THERE'S THAT.

LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS. ROBIN HOOD STOLE FROM THE ***RICH*** AND GAVE TO THE ***POOR,*** RIGHT?

WELL, *WE'RE* STEALING FROM WOULD-BE WARLORDS AND THEN MAKING *JETPACKS.*

OKAY, EXPLAIN THAT.

WHAT, THE JET-PACKS?

YES, THE JETPACKS.

YOU DON'T EXACTLY SALVAGE MANY FULLY *FUNCTIONING* FIGHTER PLANES OUT HERE. WE HAD TO IMPROVISE.

YOU IMPROVISED JETPACKS?

THAT'S ALL LAUREN. *SHE* MADE THIS WHOLE OPERATION POSSIBLE. GIRL COULD MAKE A TRUCK FLY. SHE DESIGNED THE AIRSHIP TOO. BUILT *HALF* OF IT HERSELF.

AND PROBABLY THE *OTHER* HALF IN REPAIRS.

THEN SHE OUGHT TO BE IN THE STATES GIVING ME AND HOWARD A RUN FOR OUR MONEY. WHY IS SHE OUT HERE?

SAME REASON THE REST OF US ARE. WE *WANT* TO BE.

WE WERE *ALL* IN THE WAR. EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT FACTORY WORKERS AND NURSES. BUT WE WERE *ALSO* PILOTS, MECHANICS, ENGINEERS. OUR COUNTRY NEEDED US AND WE CAME TO HER AID. THEN THE WAR *ENDED* AND WE WERE TOLD TO GO *BACK* HOME.

WE'RE THE ONES WHO SAID *NO.*

YOU JUST GAVE UP ON YOUR OLD LIVES?

WE MADE NEW ONES.

BUT, STILL, TO GIVE IT ALL UP. FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND EVERY-THING.

EVERY ONE OF US HAS HER REASON TO BE HERE. MORE OF A REASON THAN YOU DO.

HEY, I'M NOT LOOKING TO MAKE WAVES. I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR LITTLE OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

WE'LL FIND YOU A PORT ON OUR NEXT RUN. YOU CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FROM THERE.

I WAS HOPING FOR A RADIO AND SOME COORDINATES SO I COULD HAVE MY PEOPLE PICK ME UP.

ROBO. WE'RE ON AN UNCHARTED ISLAND.

SURE, BUT YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS.

LET ME PUT IT ANOTHER WAY. WE'RE ON AN UNCHARTED ISLAND FOR VERY GOOD REASONS. AMONG THEM: HALF THE WOMEN HERE ARE CLASSIFIED AS AWOL AND ALL OF US ARE BRANDED AS PIRATES.

SO, AS I SAID, WE'LL GET YOU TO A PORT.

LONG AS I CAN TAKE WHAT'S LEFT OF MY PLANE WITH ME, THAT'LL WORK OUT JUST FINE.

CAREFUL WITH THAT ENGINE! ONLY THING HOLDING IT TOGETHER IS MY PRAYERS.

YEAH, YEAH.

HEY, LAUREN.

YEAH, HANG ON.

HEY! HEY! WHAT DID I JUST SAY? PUT THAT HAMMER DOWN.

I NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU WANT THIS SALVAGE.

YEAH, OKAY, JUST PUT IT WITH THE REST.

OKAY, BUT I THOUGHT YOU CALLED DIBS ON THIS KINDA STUFF.

WHAT ARE Y--

THAT'S SALVAGE?

WELL, ALL AIRFRAMES GO TO YOU FIRST, SO I--

OKAY, YEAHSUREYEAH. THAT'S SALVAGE. GIMME.

MEANWHILE...

<TODAY YOU WERE ***NOT*** ELITE PILOTS OF THE CHOKAITEN. YOU WERE DOGS. ***BEASTS.*** PATHETIC, MINDLESS THINGS SCATTERED TO THE ***WINDS*** BY NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN ***FLIES.***>

<THOSE ***ROCKETMEN*** WERE CLIMBING ALL OVER OUR YATAGASARU. IF THEY HAD MANAGED TO HIJACK ONE-->

<THEN PERHAPS YOU WOULD HAVE DIED DEFENDING THE EMPEROR FROM HIS ENEMIES INSTEAD OF GROVELING BEFORE ME IN ***DISGRACE.***>

<OUR MOST VENERATED ENGINEERS TOILED IN SECLUSION DAY AND NIGHT ***FOR SEVEN YEARS*** TO PRODUCE THE GREAT SUPER CARRIER HIDA AND OUR YATAGASARU FIGHTERS--TECHNOLOGICAL ***MARVELS*** TO DWARF THE ATOMIC WEAPONS OF AMERICA.>

<ARE YOU TELLING ME A HANDFUL OF ***FOREIGN DEVILS*** WITH FUNNY BACKPACKS WILL THWART OUR DIVINE MISSION TO BREAK THE SHACKLES OF WESTERN TYRANNY AND RE-ASSERT IMPERIAL JAPAN'S HEGEMONY OVER THE PACIFIC?>

<NO, SIR!>

<YOUR ***ONE*** SUCCESS TODAY IS THAT YOUR RETREAT DID NOT REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THE GREAT SUPER CARRIER HIDA.>

<IT IS THE ***ONLY*** REASON YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN SPARED.>

<REPORT!>

<LIEUTENANT HAYOTO! WE RECEIVED WORD FROM YOUR SCOUT.>

<HE WAS SUCCESSFUL?>

<YES, SIR.>

<AND ADMIRAL SHIMADA HAS BEEN APPRAISED?

<YES, SIR. WE WILL DIS-EMBARK WITHIN MINUTES.>

<YOU MAY GO.>

<BY THE TIME NEWS OF TODAY'S ***EMBARRASSMENT*** REACHES SHIMADA, YOUR FAILURE WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A FEINT THAT WILL VANQUISH OUR ENEMIES.>

<SIR?>

<"THE FOREIGNERS WERE SO TAKEN WITH YOUR WITHDRAWAL THEY FAILED TO NOTICE I ORDERED ONE OF OUR NUMBER TO DOUBLE BACK AND FOLLOW THEIR SHIP.">

<"TOMORROW WE WILL ERASE THEIR ISLAND FROM THE GLOBE.">

TO BE CONTINUED

The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific
Chapter 2
Pacific Rendezvous

SHE-DEVIL ISLAND, 1951

HOW CLOSE DID YOU GET?

WE COULD *TOUCH* THEM.

WHAT THE HELL *ARE* THEY? JETS? WHO THE HELL *MADE* THEM? AND HOW DO THEY *MOVE* LIKE THAT?

NOT JETS. NO INTAKE, NO MARKINGS, NO *CANOPY.* THESE ARE NOT PLANES LIKE I HAVE SEEN.

NAVY

THEY RETREATED NORTH-NORTHEAST. HERE.

HMM. JAPAN? *MAYBE* RUSSIA? BUT JAPAN DOESN'T *HAVE* A MILITARY ANYMORE AND *RUSSIA...*

THESE ARE NOT PLANES LIKE I HAVE SEEN.

IF THEY'VE GOTTEN THIS CLOSE TO *OUR* LANES, MAYBE THEY'VE CROSSED SOMEONE ELSE TOO. WE SHOULD GO TO PETE'S. SEE IF *ANYONE* KNOWS *ANYTHING.*

PETE'S? THEY WILL NOT LIKE IT IF I COME.

THAT'S WHY YOU *HAVE* TO COME.

GOOD.

WE'LL NEED MORE THAN THE TWO OF US THOUGH...

ROBO!

IN HERE.

UH. ROBO?

THIS **USED** TO BE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROTOTYPE AEROSPIKE.

NOW LOOK AT IT.

IT'S SEEN BETTER DAYS.

I WASTED TESLA'S **FORTUNE.** FOR THE **MILITARY.** HE'D BE SPINNING IN HIS GRAVE IF HE HADN'T BEEN DISINTEGRATED.

ANYWAY. DID YOU WANT SOMETHING?

YOU'RE BUSY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

NO, I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS THING. GRAB SOME FRESH AIR. WHAT'S UP?

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO TRACK DOWN THOSE WEIRD PLANES THAT SHOT YOU DOWN.

YES. WHATEVER IT IS, COUNT ME IN.

LATER...

OKAY, I GIVE. WHY WOULD THIS **PETE** CHARACTER KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IMPOSSIBLE JETS?

NOT JETS.

THANK YOU, VAL.

ANYWAY, HE PROBABLY ***DOESN'T.*** BUT IF ANYONE KNOWS SOMETHING, HE'D KNOW ***WHO.***

WAR LEFT MANY PILOTS IN PACIFIC. MERCS AND PIRATES. NOWHERE TO GO. WE ***ALL*** END UP AT PETE'S. IS SAFE HAVEN.

LOOKS KINDA **ROUGH** FOR A SAFE HAVEN.

SHE-DEVILS.

AND A ROBOT.

GET 'EM!

YOU SAID SAFE HAVEN!
WHY DO YOU KEEP HARPING ABOUT THAT!
THEY'RE ATTACKING US!
THEY HAVE GOOD REASON.

A FEW YEARS AGO...
AND WE'LL BE TAKIN' YOUR FUEL ON OUR WAY OUT.
YOU! YOU! SHE-DEVILS!
WATCH YOUR TONGUE. WON'T NO ONE MISS ANOTHER FOUL-MOUTHED PILOT.

CHCHAK

SIGN ON TH'DOOR SAYS ***PETE'S.*** THAT'S ***ME.***

THIS HERE IS M'SILENT PARTNER. DO WHAT I SAYS, HE ***STAYS*** SILENT.

ANY TIME ONE A'YOU BRINGS A ***GRUDGE*** IN HERE, Y'BREAK HALF MY MUGS AND ***MOST*** THE TABLES. IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU NO ACCOUNT GOONS ALWAYS MAKE OFF WITH MY ***SILVERWARE.***

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND ***FORKS*** OUT HERE? NO. YOU DON'T. ***BECAUSE YOU JUST C'MERE AND STEAL MINE!***

BUT LAST TIME THEY WAS HERE THEY--

THEM SHE-DEVILS DIDN'T DO A THING TO ME OR MY BAR ***THEN,*** AND THEY AIN'T THE ONES WHAT STARTED THE FIGHT ***NOW.***

SO, AS I SAY, ***SIDDOWN*** SO I DON'T HAFTA KILL YA.

THANKS, PETE.

ORDER A DRINK ALREADY. THIS AIN'T A LIBRARY.

THE HARD STUFF. THREE.

THREE? BUT I CAN'T--

I'LL BE GOOD.

WHAT'S IN IT?

DO YOU THINK WE'D ACTUALLY *DRINK* IT IF WE KNEW?

THAT'S... DEFINITELY AN ANSWER.

WHAT DOES NOT KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER, YES? THIS MAKES YOU *VERY* STRONGER.

IT'S GOOD, BUT IT'S ***ALWAYS*** TERRIBLE.

MORE NOW.

ANYONE HERE TUSSLE WITH THOSE FLYING SAUCERS LATELY?

OH, GET ***OVER*** IT! ONLY PEOPLE WE ROBBED BACK THEN WERE DRUNK MERCS. MOST OF 'EM AREN'T EVEN ***HERE*** TODAY, AND THAT'S ***PROBABLY*** BECAUSE THEY GOT SHOT DOWN BY SOME OF ***YOU.*** DON'T GO ACTING LIKE ***YOU*** BEEN DONE WRONG.

OR LIKE YOU AIN'T DONE WORSE TO EACH OTHER OUTSIDE THESE DOORS.

WE'VE ALL SEEN THINGS WE CAN'T EXPLAIN. HELL, WE'RE ALL ***DRINKING*** THINGS WE CAN'T EXPLAIN. THE PACIFIC'S BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL THOSE THINGS, AND WE JUST GET BY WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THEM.

BUT MY GIRLS GOT UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THOSE ***WEIRD*** PLANES. YOU KNOW THE ONES.

GHOST PLANES!

THESE ARE NOT GHOSTS.

THEY SHOT ME DOWN.

PFEH! YOU ARE GHOST TOO, OF ***COURSE*** THEY SHOT YOU. IT IS ***GHOST*** BUSINESS.

HOW DO I LOOK LIKE A GHOST?

WHAT'S A DRIED UP OLD MAN LIKE ***YOU*** KNOW ABOUT GHOSTS?

AT MY AGE YOU ARE ***VERY*** CLOSE TO GHOSTS.

DO TELL.

KEEP BUYING. I KEEP TALKING.

AND SO...

JUST LIKE ***THAT?*** WE'RE GONNA FLY OFF TO FIND AN ISLAND A CRAZY OLD DRUNK ***THINKS*** GHOSTS COME FROM?

THAT WAS UNCLE LIU. HE'S OLDER THAN ***DIRT*** AND YOU DON'T GET THAT WAY OUT ***HERE*** WITHOUT KNOWING A FEW THINGS.

HE WAS THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND!

MAYBE MORE. BUT WHEN UNCLE LIU TALKS, YOU ***LISTEN.***

VAL. I HAD TOO MANY. YOU'RE FLYING.

SHE HAD MORE THAN ***YOU*** DID!

SHE'S RUSSIAN. SHE'S FINE.

LATER STILL...

WE'RE *AROUND* WHERE UNCLE LIU SAID THE ISLAND SHOULD BE.

AROUND?

HE'S OLD, DRUNK, AND SPEAKS IN METAPHOR. GETTING EXACT LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE OUT OF HIM IS A LITTLE *TRICKY*, OKAY?

HANG ON...

THERE. AN AIRSTRIP.

WHERE? I DON'T SEE IT.

I'M THE ONE WITH FANCY ROBOT EYES.

OKAY, I ADMIT IT. ABANDONED JAPANESE BASE. THAT OLD DRUNK WAS ON TO SOME-THING.

COULD BE TRAPPED.

IT'S *ABSOLUTELY* TRAPPED.

WHAT?

YEAH, SURE, SEND THE ROBOT. HE WON'T MIND.

STORY OF MY STUPID LIFE.

WHAT A *BABY.*

YOU'D THINK HE NEVER GOT BLOWN UP BEFORE.

I FOUND SOMETHING!

WHAT HE SAY?

WHAT?

I SAID, I THINK I...

THEY CAN'T HEAR ME.

SOME KIND OF *COMPUTATION* MACHINE.

LOOKS LIKE THE CYLINDERS WOULD OUTPUT CHANGES TO YOUR INPUT.

KABOOOM

W-WHERE'S ROBO?

DOIN' FINE.

GHOST BUSINESS. NEXT TIME WE SEE UNCLE LIU, I'MA PUNCH HIM.

QUIT YOUR GROUSIN'. HE GOT US A CLUE.

WHAT CLUE?

THAT WAS A JAPANESE AIR STRIP WELL ***OUTSIDE*** THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE DURING THE WAR. PLUS, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

THERE'S SO LITTLE ***LEFT*** I CAN'T SAY. ***MIGHT'VE*** BEEN A COMPUTATION MACHINE, ***OR*** JUST A DECOY TO TRICK SOME ***CHUCKLEHEAD*** INTO BLOWING HIMSELF UP.

WELL, YOU FIT ***THAT*** BILL.

WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING HERE, IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO SET A TRAP ***THAT*** BIG.

3

LET'S GET BACK TO THE ISLAND. FIND ROBO SOME CLOTHES AND GET SOME MORE INTEL ABOUT THIS AREA.

THAT NIGHT, SHE-DEVIL ISLAND...

WHERE IS MY JET?

JET?

YEAH. Y'KNOW, TWO WINGS, AN ENGINE, AT LEAST ONE SEAT.

SPECIFICALLY, MINE.

WHERE IS IT?

HEY! I'M HOLDING THIS WHOLE OPERATION TOGETHER WITH ELECTRICAL TAPE AND GOOD INTENTIONS.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR SCRAP PILE IS RIGHT NOW, BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS I'D SAY IT'D BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE *OCEAN* IF WE HADN'T SAVED YOUR *CAN* BACK THERE!

WE DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A LOTTA SPARE HANDS AROUND HERE, SO IT'S GONNA TAKE SOME TIME TO SEPARATE THE JUNK YOU CALLED A *JET* FROM THE JUNK WE NEED TO *SURVIVE* OUT HERE.

YEAH. WELL. AS LONG AS IT'S DONE *SOON.*

LAUREN, HERE'S THAT EXTRA TARP YOU WANTED TO COVER UP WHAT'S LEFT OF ROBO'S JET.

IXNAY.

IS THAT. THAT IS!

I CAN EXPLAIN.

IT'S NOT THAT BAD.

I CAN EXPLAIN!

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

THE GIRLS BROUGHT IT TO ME 'CAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF SCRAP AND FRESH MEAT ALWAYS COMES TO ME FIRST.

AND, I MEAN, I KNEW IT WAS YOUR PLANE, BUT IT COULDN'T HURT TO LOOK AT IT, RIGHT?

SO, I STARTED TAKING IT APART. JUST A LITTLE! TO SEE WHAT WAS LEFT AND WHAT WE COULD REBUILD.

THE TECH IN THAT THING, I MEAN WHAT WAS LEFT ANYWAY, WAS BRILLIANT.

BUT, ROBO, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME, SHE WAS NEVER GONNA FLY AGAIN.

EVERYTHING TESLA LEFT ME WAS TIED UP IN THIS!

AND YOU JUST--! YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

DID LAUREN EVER TUNE UP THE AIRSHIP?

SHE'S BEEN HOLED UP IN HER WORKSHOP.

WHAT, ALL *DAY?*

AND THE NIGHT BEFORE.

DAMN THAT GIRL.

LAUREN, YOU BETTER HAVE THE BEST REASON IN THE *WORLD* FOR-- OH!

MFF!

DISH ISHN'T WUD ID LOOG LIKE.

I'M TAKING HISH *MESHURMITS.*

THAT *IS* WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

LAUREN HAD SOME IDEAS ABOUT INCORPORATING MY PROTOTYPE INTO ONE OF HER JETPACKS.

ORDINARY IDEAS!

AND THEN I HAD SOME IDEAS ABOUT SCALING IT UP.

AND **THEN** WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT EXOTIC FUEL SOURCES. WEAPONIZATION.

AND, WELL, LAUREN, YOU SHOULD TELL HER WHAT YOU PLANNED BASED ON THOSE ROCKET, UH...

Z

HM...

SHHH. C'MON.

POOR THING. PROBABLY HASN'T SLEPT SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

THAT WAS TWO DAYS AGO.

HER RECORD'S *THREE.*

LAUREN'S ***ALWAYS*** BEEN LIKE THAT. SHE STARTS A PROJECT AND IT ***CONSUMES*** HER. IT'S NO GOOD TRYING TO STOP HER. JUST MAKES HER ANGRY.

WE'VE LEARNED TO LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, AND STAY OUT OF HER WAY.

WE'VE GOT *INCOMING!*

MULTIPLE BOGEYS!

WHOA, *WHAT?*

I REPEAT, MULTIPLE BOGEYS!

THEY'RE COMIN' RIGHT FOR US!

CLOSING AT HIGH SPEED!

DROP WHAT'CHA DOIN' AND GEAR UP!

THIS AIN'T PRACTICE, MOVE!

HEY, WAIT!

FWOOOOSH
SHROOOSH
SHROOOSH

I KNOW, CAP, I KNOW. I'M ON IT.

DAMMIT, LAUREN. THE SHIP SHOULD'VE BEEN PREPPED BY NOW!

MAYBE IT'S NOTHING. COULD BE THEY'RE JUST PASSING BY?

FABOOM

KABOOM

KABOOM

BOOM

GUESS THEY'RE NOT PASSING BY.

LAUREN. GET THAT SHIP *AIRBORNE.* AND I MEAN FIVE MINUTES AGO.

Y'SIR.

I DON'T KNOW *WHO'S* BLOWING UP OUR HOME, BUT MAY *GOD* HAVE MERCY ON THEIR SOULS BECAUSE *THE FLYING SHE-DEVILS* SURE AS *HELL* WON'T!

TO BE CONTINUED

The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific
Chapter 3
Out of the Depths

BOOM!

KABOOM!

JETS OF SOME KIND. THEY GOT *JAPANESE* MARKINGS.

THEY HAVE *WINGS?*

WHAT KINDA QUESTION--OF *COURSE* THEY GOT WINGS.

CAN'T BE THOSE SCI-FI JETS...

GET YOURSELF TO THE HANGAR *ASAP.*

ROGER, CAP.

COULD BE FROM PETE'S. REVENGE MAYBE?

COULD BE. DOESN'T MATTER.

ROBO. YOU AND LAUREN PREP THE AIRSHIP. EITHER WE'LL NEED TO GET SCARCE IN A *HURRY,* OR WE'LL HAVE A MESS OF SALVAGE. *EITHER WAY,* I WANT HER READY TO FLY.

LADIES. PREPARE FOR LAUNCH.

HUP!

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE!

GIMME SOMETHING TO DO!

Y'GOT *ARMS*, DON'TCHA? HELP *HER* SUIT UP!

GIVE 'EM HELL.

I'LL *START* WITH THAT AND GO FROM THERE.

SKROOOSH

NOW WE GET SOME *REAL* USE OUTTA YOU.

NOW WHAT.

*JUST POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. YOU'RE LOOKING AT ONE OF THE **FOREMOST** AVIATORS AND ENGINEERS IN THE WORLD.*

GREAT. GAS UP THE SHIP, MR. HUGHES.

CAP, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE COMING AROUND FOR ANOTHER PASS.

WE GOT A STRAGGLER OVER HERE. TAKE HIM OUT.

ROGER, CAP.

CHATTA CHATTA

BOOM

SPLOSH

THAT'S ONE DOWN!

MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

HOW WE DOIN' UP TOP, GIRLS?

HAZEL'S GOIN' IN FOR A KILL.

SHUNK

CHATTA CHATTA

GOT 'IM.

LOOK OUT! FRIENDS ON YOUR SIX.

LI'L HELP!

JUST HANG ON AND STAY ON COURSE!

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

ROGER, I SEE YA.

LITTLE CLOSE!

SORRY, COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER ALL THE GUNFIRE I'M EVADING!

YEAH, YEAH.

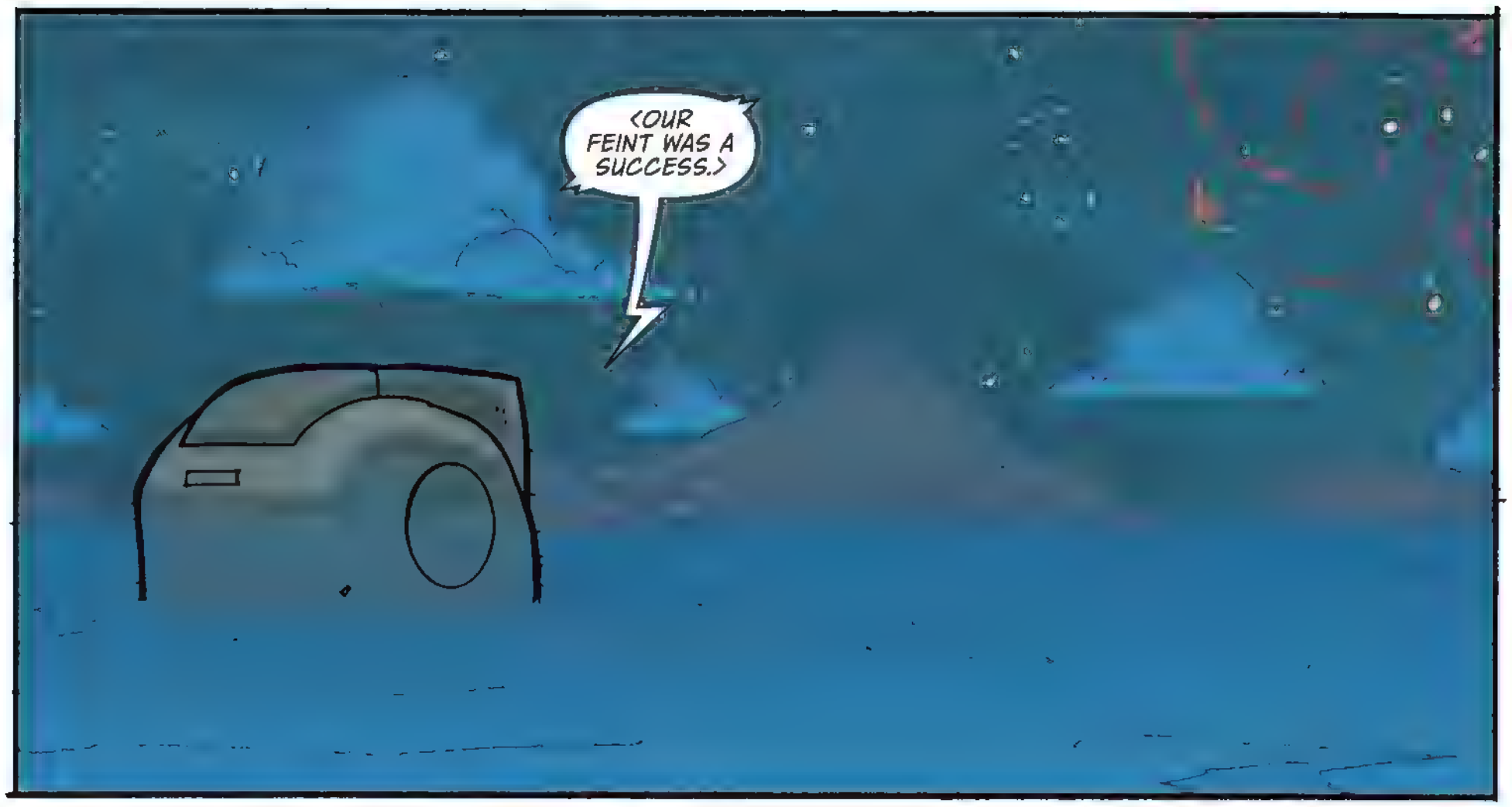
Y'OWE ME ONE!

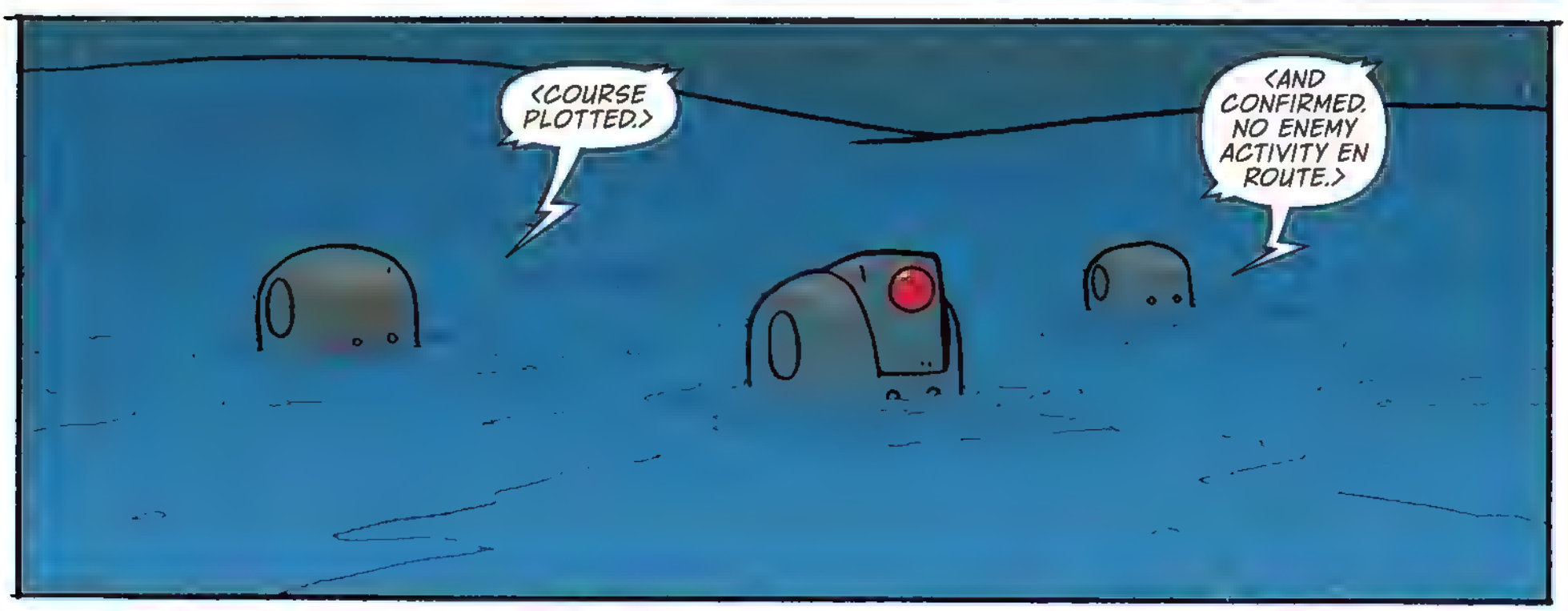
KA-THOOM

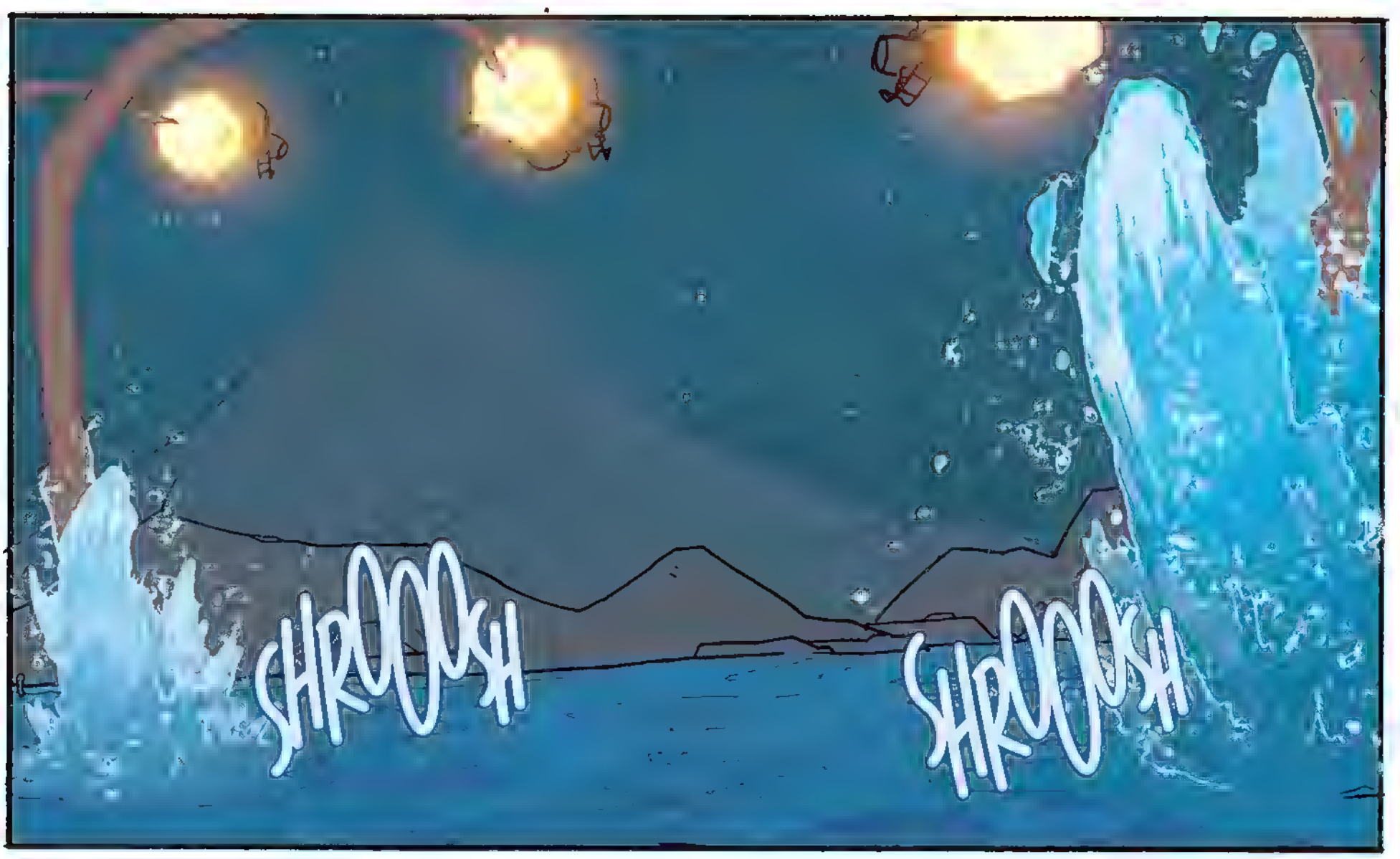
DON'T LET UP! THEY **STILL** GOT US OUT-GUNNED.

RUNNIN' LOW ON LEAD HERE.

CHATTA


<OUR FEINT WAS A SUCCESS.>


<COURSE PLOTTED.>
<AND CONFIRMED. NO ENEMY ACTIVITY EN ROUTE.>


SHROOOSH
SHROOOSH

WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?!* WE GOTTA GET THIS TUB MOVIN'!

NOW!

*THIS ENGINE BURNED OUT LAST TIME WE WERE IN THE AIR. I'M **FIXING** IT.*

IT DOESN'T *NEED* FIXING, ROBO. IT'S *FINE.*

SURE IT IS. NOW THAT IT'S FIXED.

LORD, GRANT ME THE STRENGTH TO PUT UP WITH THAT ROBOT TOUCHING MY BOAT.

LAUNCH!

TK

GRANKA

PFEHHH

WAM!

BWAAAR

CAPTAIN!

VAL.

SOME OF THE GIRLS ARE OUT OF AMMO. WE WILL NOT LAST.

VRRRRRR

WE ONLY GOTTA STALL 'EM LONG ENOUGH FOR LAUREN TO GET AIRBORNE.

SPLOOOSH

WHERE'D THAT **BATTLESHIP** COME FROM?!

WHERE DID **ANY** OF THIS COME FROM?

REVERSE, ONE-QUARTER.

ROGER.

Y'HEAR THOSE ENGINES PURR?

YEAH. YOU'RE WELCOME.

ALL RIGHT. COMING AROUND.

THE HECK ARE THOSE?

SPLISH

THE HECK IS THAT?

LET'S NOT STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT!

EMERGENCY LAUNCH!

CLK

WRNK

BWRRRRRRRR
SHOOOOSH
ZHOOOOM

THE ISLAND!

WWOOOOOOOO

CAP! WE GOTTA GET GONE!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

FLAK'S TOO THICK!

BOOM!

B-BOOM!

WE'RE GETTIN' ABOVE IT, KEEP GOIN'!

CAPTAIN CARTER COMIN' ABOARD!

GOTCHA!

LAUREN, CUT THE ROCKETS.

NO CAN DO, CAP.

THE GIRLS ARE RUNNIN' ON *FUMES.*

YEAH, BUT WE GOT INCOMING!

CHATTA CHATTA

GET THE OTHERS!

WHAT'RE YOU--

PANG

TWANG

SPOW

POK

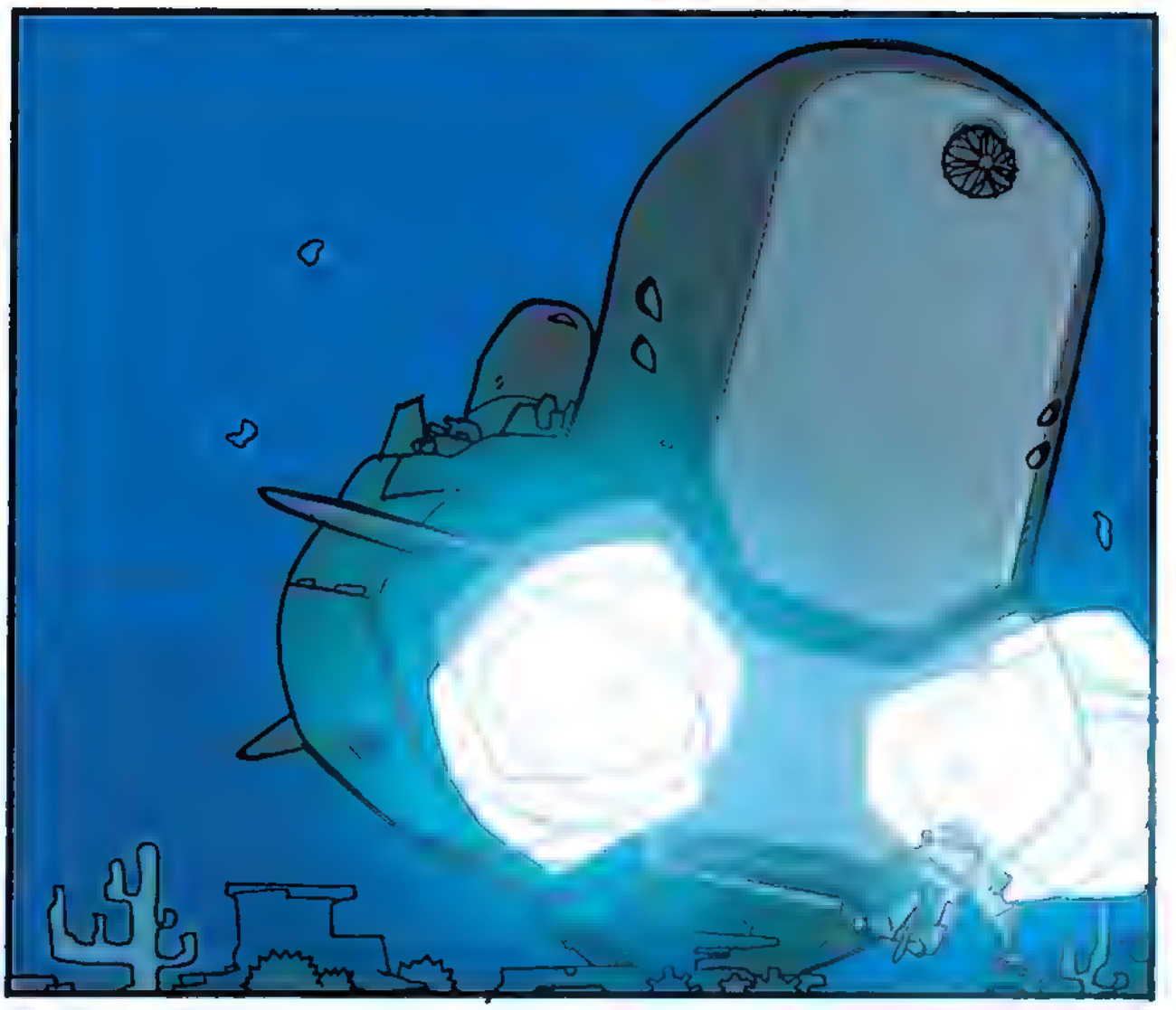
THIS IS STUPID, THIS IS STUPID.

FWAM

THAT WAS STUPID, THAT WAS STUPID.

SPLOSH

UM, WHAT?



?!

OH, GOOD. THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE.

NICE BOAT YOU GOT HERE.

LIGHTNING GUNS, THOUGH?

PRETTY SURE THAT'S PATENT INFRINGEMENT.

JEEZ.

YOU CHATTERBOXES EVER PIPE DOWN?

SOUND OFF, LADIES.
GOLDSTEIN!
MATTHEWS!
ROSS!
HILLER!
AKILINOV.
GET YER GEAR *SECURED.* WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH RIDE.
LAUREN. FULL SPEED AND *DON'T LET UP.*
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT? WE'LL FALL APART IF WE PUSH THE BOAT LIKE THAT AGAIN.
THEN PUSH IT A LITTLE LESS THAN *THAT.*
LADIES. THEY DESTROYED OUR ISLAND. OUR *HOME.* NOW, FIRST THING'S FI--
WHERE'S HAZEL?!

FSSS

ATOMIC ROBO.

Y'HEARD OF ME?

YOU DO NOT KNOW IT, BUT WE ARE OLD ACQUAINTANCES

THAT A FACT?

WE SPENT SOME TIME SHOOTING ONE OTHER ABOVE CHINA SOME YEARS AGO.

I SHOT *A LOT* OF JAPANESE PILOTS BACK THEN.

I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO KNOW WHICH ONE I WAS. BUT I REMEMBER ***YOU.*** THERE WERE VERY FEW ***ROBOT PILOTS*** IN THE FLYING TIGERS. ***I*** SHOT YOU DOWN.

TWICE.

YEAH? LUCKY YOU.

AS WITH TODAY'S VICTORY, LUCK HAD ***NOTHING*** TO DO WITH IT.

*YOU'RE AWFUL SMUG FOR A GUY ABOUT TO GET HIS **HEAD** KNOCKED OFF.*

I WOULD NOT BE SO BOLD WITH ION RIFLES AIMED AT ***MY*** BACK.

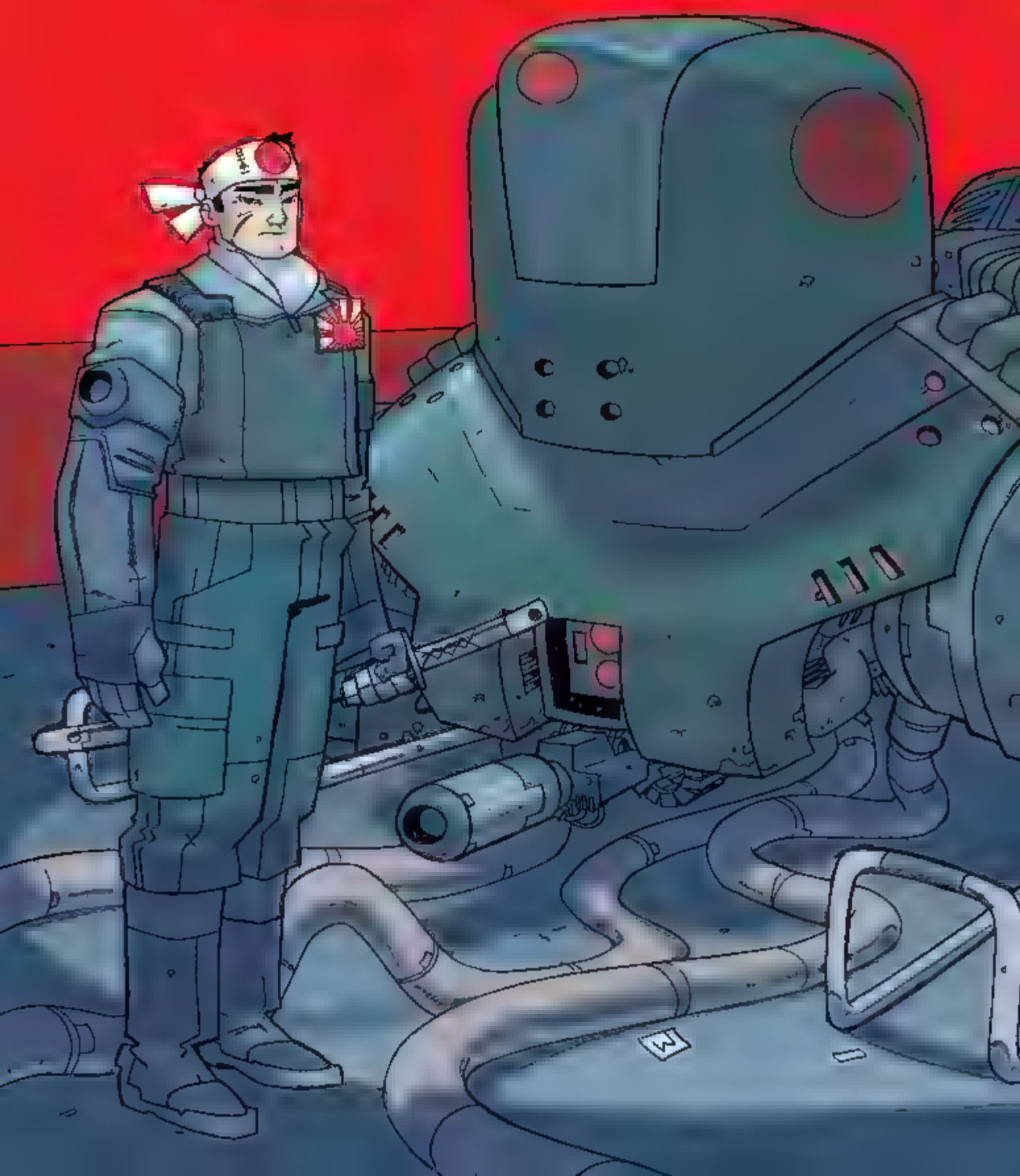
*IN THIS BIG METAL **BOX?** IT'D KILL YOU TOO.*

IT WOULD NOT OCCUR TO THEM TO HESITATE ON MY ACCOUNT.

OKAY. LET'S PLAY IT YOUR WAY. I'M CAPTURED.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific
Chapter 4
Behind the Rising Sun



PROJECT CHOKAITEN
SOUTH PACIFIC STAGING GROUND
SEPTEMBER 3, 1945

<BUT ADMIRAL, THE EMPEROR *SURRENDERED.* CHOKAITEN IS A FAILURE.>

<TAKESHI.>

<THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC AND MILITARY MINDS OF JAPAN WERE HANDPICKED BY THE EMPEROR ***HIMSELF*** TO CREATE CHOKAITEN. ***WE*** ARE THE EMPEROR'S WILL MANIFEST IN ***STEEL.*** HIS "SURRENDER" IS ***OUR*** CALL TO ARMS.>

<A FEINT?>

<THERE ***IS*** NO DECEPTION IN WAR. ONLY VICTORY AND DEFEAT.>

<IN VICTORY, CHOKAITEN WOULD BE A SYMBOL OF JAPAN'S ***INVINCIBLE*** MILITARY MIGHT. IN DEFEAT, WE WOULD ***RECLAIM*** THE PACIFIC FOR JAPAN.>

<OUR GREAT SUPERCARRIER HIDA AND YATAGARASU FIGHTERS ARE THE MOST ADVANCED INSTRUMENTS OF WAR CONCEIVED BY MAN.>

<WHEN WE STRIKE THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT OF THE AMERICAN NATION BUT ***SMOKE.***>

<LET THEM BUILD A ***HUNDRED*** MORE ATOMIC WEAPONS. WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THERE WILL BE NO ONE LEFT TO ***USE*** THEM.>

THE GREAT SUPERCARRIER HIDA, 1951

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. EARTHQUAKE BOMBS?

OUR SCIENTISTS DETERMINED ATOMIC WEAPONRY ***UNFEASIBLE*** IN THE SHORT TERM. WE PURSUED PROVEN WEAPON TECHNOLOGIES.

EARTHQUAKE BOMBS WERE ***PROVEN?***

ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED EARTHQUAKES WERE PROVEN TO BE ***QUITE*** SOUND BY YOUR OWN NIKOLA TESLA.

ION RIFLES, EARTHQUAKE WEAPONS, ELECTRO-GRAVITY PROPULSION. THESE WERE INSPIRED BY TESLA'S ACHIEVEMENTS. ***THEY*** ARE WHAT MADE CHOKAITEN A REALITY.

AND ***VERY*** SOON WE WILL HAVE CREATED OUR OWN ROBOT SOLDIERS.

I ***COULD*** KILL YOU.

PROBABLY. BUT WE HAVE MANY SOLDIERS EQUIPPED WITH MANY ION RIFLES. YOU WOULD NOT GO FAR.

AH. WE'VE SURFACED.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF OUR YATAGARASU FIGHTERS?

IF YOU LIKE.

THE FLYING SAUCERS?

THEY OUTCLASS EVERYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN IN THE SKY.

THEY WERE TO BE THE SPEAR OF THE JAPANESE COUNTER-ATTACK.

BUT WE SPENT THE WAR ***HIDING*** IN A CAVE ***WAITING*** FOR OUR SCIENTISTS TO DELIVER THESE MIRACLE WEAPONS.

THEY WERE TO RECREATE AND ***WEAPONIZE*** TESLA'S GENIUS. BUT IT TOOK TIME. THE EMPEROR SURRENDERED BEFORE WE WERE READY.

Y'KNOW WE'RE ALLIES NOW?

ALLIES? YOU HOLD ATOMIC WEAPONS OVER THE HEADS OF MY COUNTRYMEN AND CALL YOURSELVES THEIR ***ALLIES?***

OUR MISSION REMAINS.

*YOU'RE JUST **ONE SHIP.** ATTACKING THE UNITED STATES IS A SUICIDE MISSION.*

PERHAPS YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH JAPANESE MILITARY DOCTRINE.

I HAD TWENTY-THREE CONFIRMED KILLS IN 1941. TWENTY-***FIVE,*** COUNTING YOU. I WAS THE TOP ACE PILOT IN THE ***WORLD.***

YOU'RE DYING FOR NOTHING.

CHOKAITEN WAS A PROMISE OF STILL GREATER GLORY ON THE WINGS OF JAPAN'S TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY.

BUT LESSER MEN FOUGHT MY WAR WHILE ***I*** DID ***NOTHING.*** IF I HAVE TO GIVE MY LIFE TO ATONE FOR THAT BLEMISH, THEN THAT IS THE WAY OF THINGS.

WE WILL DROP THE EARTHQUAKE BOMB. IT WILL BE THE END OF YOUR NATION.

*AMERICA IS A **VERY BIG PLACE.** MAYBE YOU CAN DESTROY A CITY, BUT IT WON'T MATTER. THEY **WILL KILL YOU.***

*IS THIS SOME KIND OF **HONOR** THING?*

NO, IT IS NOT AN HONOR THING.

GOOD-BYE, ATOMIC ROBO. MY MEN WILL MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT ACT ON ***ABSURD*** IDEAS OF ESCAPE.

I ALWAYS WONDERED...

...WHAT MAKES A FELLA TURN TO A LIFE OF STOIC GUA--

KZARK

TONK

<WHAT ARE THE PROJECTIONS FOR THE EARTHQUAKE WEAPON?>

<WE SANK THE SHE-DEVIL ISLAND WITH A *ONE PERCENT YIELD* BOMB. OUR *FULL YIELD* BOMBS ARE CALCULATED TO DESTROY THEIR ENTIRE WESTERN SEABOARD.>

<DROPPING IT ON A *FAULT LINE* AS WE PLAN WILL *AMPLIFY* THE EFFECT. WE ESTIMATE AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT WILL BECOME UNINHABITABLE.>

<GOOD. *VERY GOOD.*

<HELM. SET COURSE FOR *TARGET C.*>

<AYE.>

<WHAT OF THE ATOMIC ROBOT?>

<I LEFT HIM WITH OUR BEST ENGINEERS. HE WILL BE FULLY DISMANTLED BY THE TIME WE RETURN.>

<AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. THE SECRECY. THE *SACRIFICE.* THE MEN OF CHOKAITEN WILL FORGE A *NEW* FUTURE FOR JAPAN.>

<WHY ARE *WE* STUCK DRAGGING HIM?>

<THE PRICE WE PAY FOR GUARD DUTY.>

<I THOUGHT *GUARD DUTY* WAS THE PRICE FOR GUARD DUTY.>

<USUALLY. BUT THIS IS A SECRET ISLAND BASE NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. WHAT'S THERE TO GUARD *AGAINST?*>

<YOU THERE! GET THE WINCH!>

<WEIGHS A TON!>

<YOU GOT THE *EASY* PART.>

<I SAY WE START BY REMOVING THE HEAD.>

<ON WHAT BASIS?>

<ON THE BASIS THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE'LL *STAY* DEACTIVATED AND I'D RATHER NOT FIND OUT.>

<WHAT IF HIS BRAIN ISN'T IN HIS HEAD?>

<WE START BY REMOVING THE *POWER SOURCE.*>

<HOW--?! RAISE THE ALARM!>

THOOM

CHAKKA CHAKKA

CHAKKA CHAK

CHAKKA CHAKKA

NO PRISONERS!

CHAKKA CHAK

<STAY BACK! I'LL CUT HIS HEAD RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!>

WHAT'S HE SAYING?

KZARK

WHO CARES?

HAZEL!

NONE OTHER.

HOPE THIS WORKS.

KZARK

FSSSSSSSS

--RDING?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

FIRST...

AND THEN...

AND THIS...

AND ONE OF THOSE...

AND SO...

AND THEN I BEAT FEET TO THE RADIO ROOM AND CALLED THE CAVALRY. *NOTHING* TO IT.

WAIT, CHOKAITEN!

WHO?

THE BAD GUYS! THEY'RE GONNA ATTACK THE U.S. WE HAVE TO STOP THEM.

WE? ROBO, LAST TIME WE TUSSLED WITH THEM WE WERE LUCKY TO GET OUTTA THERE WITH OUR LIVES.

ALL IT COST US WAS OUR HOME SINKING INTO THE OCEAN.

AND THEY'RE ACTING LIKE THEY'VE GOT A WEAPON THAT'LL DO THE SAME TO NORTH AMERICA.

AND AMERICA'S GOT A WHOLE NAVY TO STOP 'EM. IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.

KINDA MY POINT, HAZEL. WHAT DO WE HAVE?

CAP, THEY'VE GOT A SUBMERSIBLE BATTLESHIP CARRIER AND SUPER JETS YOU CAN'T SHOOT DOWN.

WE HAVE THEIR GUNS.

OKAY. BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

MAYBE WE DO. I SAW SOMETHIN' IN THE RADIO ROOM.

DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT WHEN I WAS IN HERE, BUT *LOOK.*

SAN FRANCISCO.

HOW MUCH HEAD START?

AIRSHIP'S *BARELY* HANGING TOGETHER AFTER ALL SHE'S BEEN THROUGH. GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO GET HER IN THE AIR AGAIN.

IT WILL TAKE THEM DAYS TO REACH AMERICA.

FIVE DAYS AT TOP SPEED. WE CAN CATCH UP, BUT IT'LL BE *CLOSE.*

SCOUR THE ISLAND. GRAB EVERY GUN, FIND EVERY BARREL, AND FILL THEM WITH *EVERY DROP* OF GO-JUICE YOU CAN FIND.

"BURN THE REST."

SAN FRANCISCO BAY
FIVE DAYS LATER

<EARTHQUAKE BOMB SECURED. PREFLIGHT CREWS DISENGAGING.>

<I KNOW THESE LONG YEARS IN THE SHADOWS HAVE WORN ON YOU PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, TAKESHI.>

<THE EMPEROR SURRENDERED SO *WE* COULD BRING VICTORY TO JAPAN...>

...NO MATTER THE COST.

<WE DIED WHEN WE JOINED CHOKAITEN. YOUR LACK OF AN EARTHLY LIFE ENABLES YOU TO CONCENTRATE UTTERLY ON ERADICATING THE ENEMY. WE CANNOT-->

<ADMIRAL SHIMADA, IT'S-->

<THE SHE-DEVILS!>

KZARK ZARK ZARK

<PLUCK THEM FROM THE SKIES!>

BOOM

GIVE 'EM HELL AND LIGHTNING, GIRLS!

ZARK

KZARK

KZARK

ZARK

ZARK

THEY'RE AIRBORNE, CLOSE IN AND TIE 'EM UP!

<CONCENTRATE *ALL* ANTI-AIR FIRE UPON THE *AIRSHIP!* THE REST ARE *INSECTS* WITHOUT IT!>

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

BOOM

FLAK CANNONS!

B'BOOM

BOOM

GET US *OUTTA* HERE!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE GIRLS OUT THERE!

THEY'RE NOT SHOOTING AT *THEM*, THEY'RE SHOOTING AT *US!* GET SOME ALTITUDE AND *FAST!*

BWRRRRRRRR

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

<IT'S MOVED OUT OF RANGE, SIR!>

<PFAH! FULL POWER TO THE ELECTRO-GRAVITY DRIVE!>

KRAKOOM

WOOSUNDS

I'M SEEIN' THINGS.

THEN I'M SEEING THEM TOO.

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

THERE'S A *LOT* OF THAT GOING AROUND.

THEY'RE GETTING US IN RANGE AGAIN!

MOVE THIS DAMN TUB!

WELL, WHAT'DYA *THINK* I'M DOIN', SMART GUY?

LIEUTENANT HAYOTO!

<THE *MISSION* IS YOUR PRIORITY! DISENGAGE.>

<YES, SIR.>

ONE OF 'EM IS BREAKIN' OFF!

I'M MOVING IN TO-- *HEY!*

CHATTA CHATTA

GOTTA BOGEY. TARGET'S GETTING AWAY!

I REPEAT, LEAD JET IS GETTIN' AWAY!

BOOM

TOO MANY OF 'EM, CAN'T BREAK OFF!

THE BATTLESHIP'S CLIMBING FASTER THAN WE ARE!

I'M PUSHIN' HER AS FAR AS SHE'LL GO!

WE'RE UP TO OUR EYEBALLS IN FLAK, THE GIRLS ARE OUTNUMBERED, AND WE CAN'T CATCH UP TO THAT JET FIGHTER!

SOMETHIN'S GOTTA GIVE!

B-BOOM

BOOM

NUTS TO THIS.

I'M STEPPING OUT.

B-BOOM

CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE...

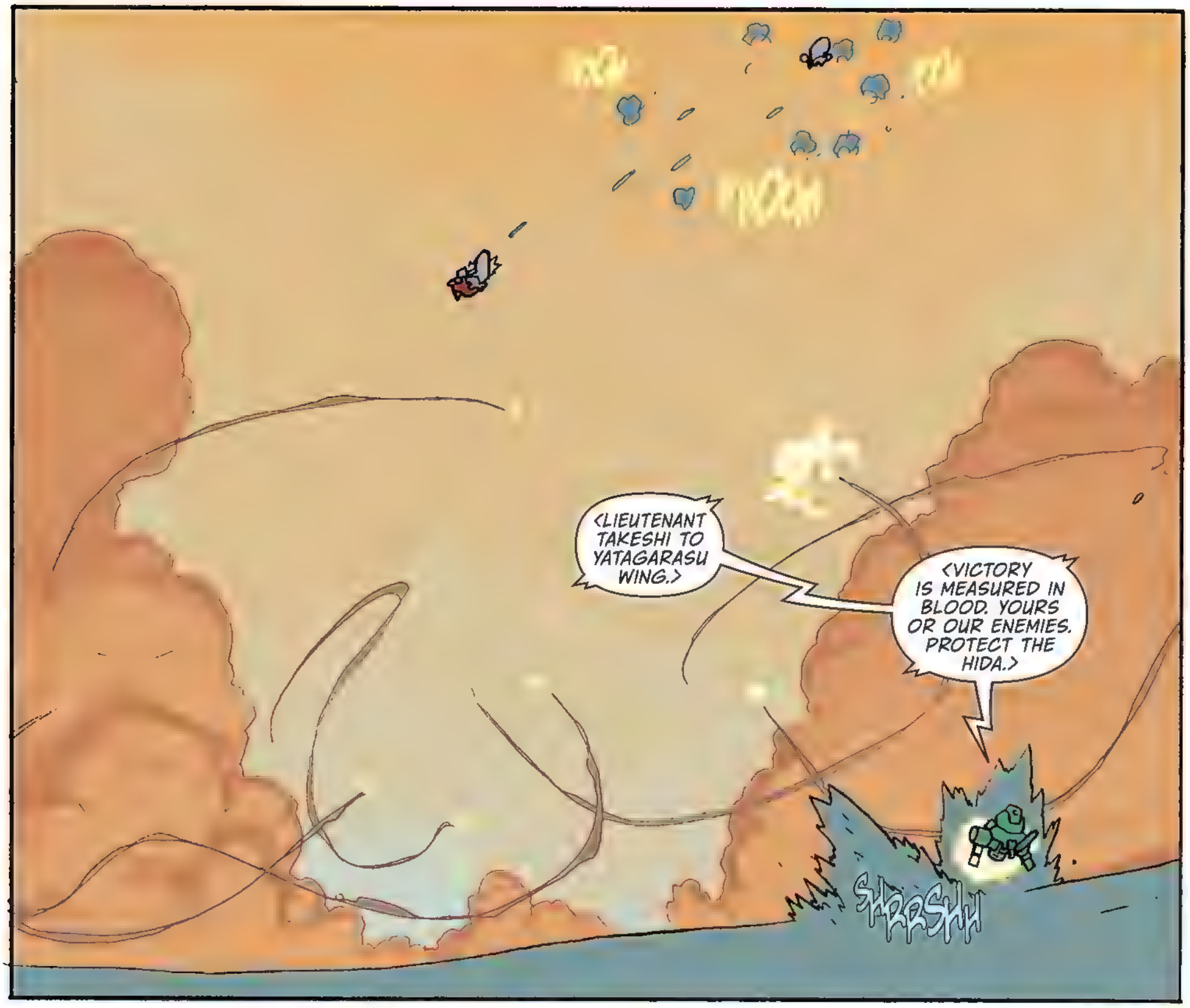
WAIT, STEPPING...

BUT IT'S NOT FINISHED YET!

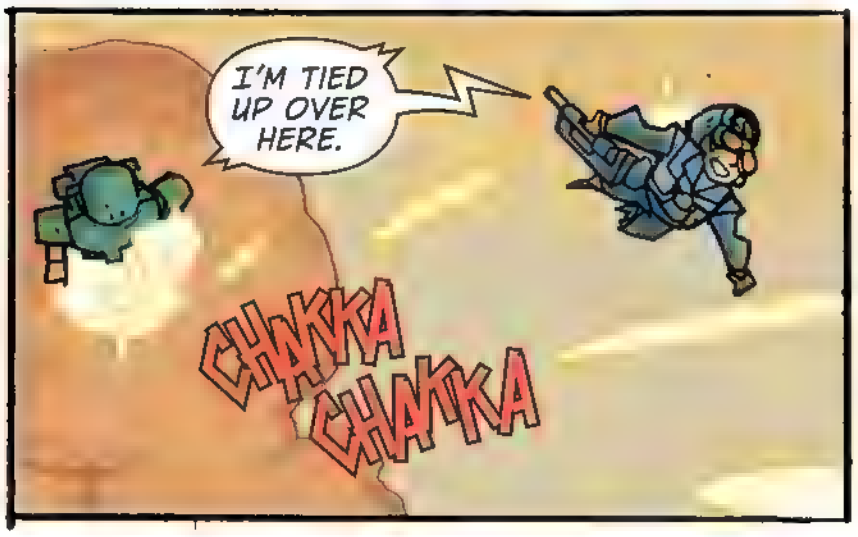
THIS IS STUPID, THIS IS STUPID.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific
Chapter 5
The Blazing Heavens


KOOM
KOOM
<LIEUTENANT TAKESHI TO YATAGARASU WING.>
<VICTORY IS MEASURED IN BLOOD. YOURS OR OUR ENEMIES. PROTECT THE HIDA.>
SHRRSHH

CAN ANYONE GET TO THE LEADER?


I'M TIED UP OVER HERE.
CHAKKA CHAKKA

KZARK KZARK KZARK
HE'S GETTING AWAY!

LIKE **FUN** HE IS.

ROBO. COME IN, ROBO.

I READ YOU, LAUREN.

LIKE I WAS **TRYIN'** TO TELL YOU, THAT THING'S **NOT FINISHED!**

WE'LL GIVE IT A FINAL COAT OF PAINT WHEN I GET BACK.

WHAT I **MEAN** IS, THERE'S **NO HEATSHIELD.** YOU'VE ONLY GOT A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE FUEL TANK **EXPLODES!**

BETTER DO THIS QUICK THEN.

CHAKKA CHAKKA CHAKKA

ZPTZJAK

WOOP WOOP

HA.

DUELING WITH ME HAS **NEVER** ENDED WELL FOR YOU, ATOMIC ROBO.

CHAKKA CHAKKA BOOM

WOOP WOOP

CLK

SURPRISED?

CHOOM

I THINK I SEE THE EARTHQUAKE BOMB.

VWUMWUMWUM

IT'S GIVING OFF SOME **WEIRD** SIGNALS. I CAN **HEAR** IT IN MY **OPTICS.**

I KNOW THAT MADE NO SENSE.

KZARK KZARK KZARK

BOOM

BOOM

BBOOM

COULD *REALLY* USE SOME HELP UP HERE, CAP!

ROGER THAT, LAUREN. HANG IN THERE.

KZARK

ZARK

CHATTA CHATTA

I WANT *EVERY* STICKY BOMB WE'VE GOT ON THEIR CARRIER GUNS.

CHATTA CHATTA

I'VE GOT A *BELT* FULL OF STICKIES. BACK ME UP, RONNIE.

OUI.

SHROOOSH

TEN SECOND TIMER.

HALF HERE, HALF ON THE OTHER SIDE.

SPLUK

TYK

ALLEZ HOP!

CHATTA CHATTA

HK

RONNIE?

...

TUNK

<ADMIRAL SHIMADA! THE SHE-DEVILS PLANTED A B-->

KA-THOOM

<I HAVE LOST VISUAL!>

<I REPEAT.>

<LOST VIS-->

HOOM

RONNIE? LIZ?

HAZEL.

MOURN LATER, MAKE 'EM PAY NOW.

RIGHT, ON IT!

KZARK

KZARK

CHATTA CHATTA

<REPORT!>

<FUJIN IS OFFLINE. REROUTING RAIJIN OUTPUT TO ELECTRO-GRAV.>

<IT'S AN AUXILIARY MEASURE. WE CAN'T STAY IN THE AIR LIKE THIS!>

WUH-THOOM WUH-THOOM

CHATTA CHATTA

KZARK

THE SAUCERS ARE SLOW TO RISE.

KRABOOM

AND BLIND FROM ABOVE. USE THIS.

SKROOOSH

ROBO?!

?!

VOOOM

YOUR CARRIER'S **BUSTED** AND HALF YOUR WINGMEN ARE **DEAD.**

WE ARE ALL DEAD.

YEAH?

KZARKZARK

CHAKKA CHAKKA

YOU'RE AWFUL **FEISTY** FOR A CORPSE.

CHAKKA CHAKKA

ELECTRO-GRAVITY IS A **POISON.** ITS ENERGY INFECTS THE BODY. THE MEN OF CHOKAITEN ARE ALREADY **DEAD.**

KZARK ZARK

BOOHOO.

CHAKKA

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

KZARK

WE'VE NOTHING TO FEAR.

AND YOU CANNOT **KILL** THE DEAD.

LET'S SEE.

KZARK

CHAKKA CHAKKA

OH, ROBO. SO PREDICTABLE.

KZARK ZARK

AUGH!

ZOAZZK

<IF WE ARE TO GO DOWN, SO SHALL THEY.>

<CHARGE THE *ION CANNON!*>

<SIR, WE HAVEN'T THE POWER TO-->

<FIRE!>

ZMMMMMM

ZRAKOOM

DOOF!

H'OKAY...

CHAKKA CHAKKA

YOU MUST TRY HARDER THAN **THAT**, ATOMIC ROBO!

H'OKAY

GOTTA ANGLE THIS **JUST** RIGHT...

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THAT EASILY.

BOOM

HADN'T PLANNED ON IT!

STUPID OLD BOAT.

I'LL MISS YA.

<THEY'RE COMING AROUND.>

<FIRE THE ION CANNON!

<SIR, THE CANNON IS STILL CHARGING!>

<ONE NUISANCE AFTER ANOTHER.>

<HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT FOR A FULL CHARGE?>

CLK

WRNK

VRRT

KFOOOOOOOM!

<DIRECT ALL GUNS AT THAT SHIP!>

<BUT THE FIRING COMPU-->

<WE DON'T NEED ACCURACY TO CREATE A WALL OF EXPLOSIONS!>

<YES, SIR!>

YOU BROUGHT A GUN TO A ROBOT FIGHT.

WRANG

KZARK

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SHOOT YOU OUT OF THE SKY?

KEEP TRYING AND YOU MIGHT GET IT RIGHT ONE DAY.

LUCKILY YOU PROVIDE ME AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES.

YEAH?

I'M NOT THE ONE WITH THE EXPOSED **HIGHLY-VOLATILE** WEAPON SYSTEM.

WA-BOOM

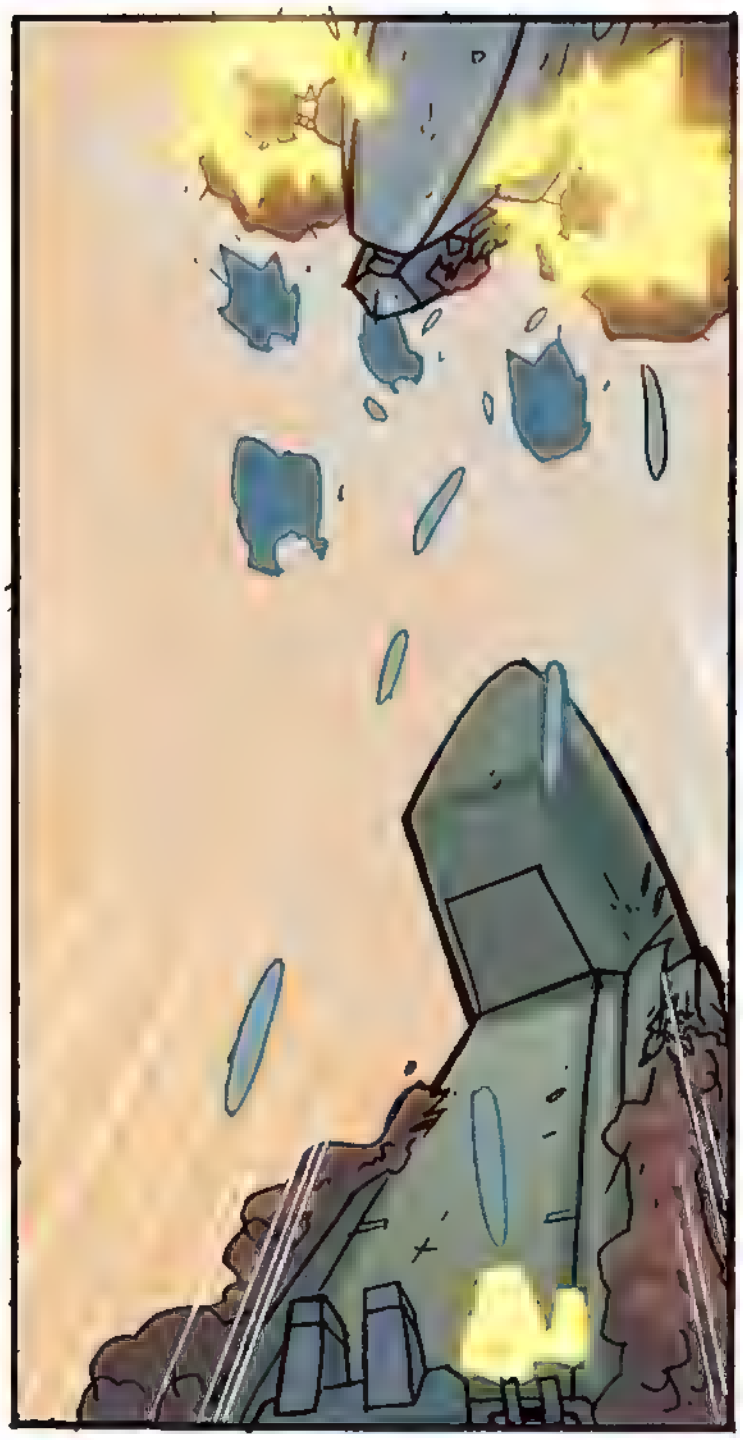
ROBO!

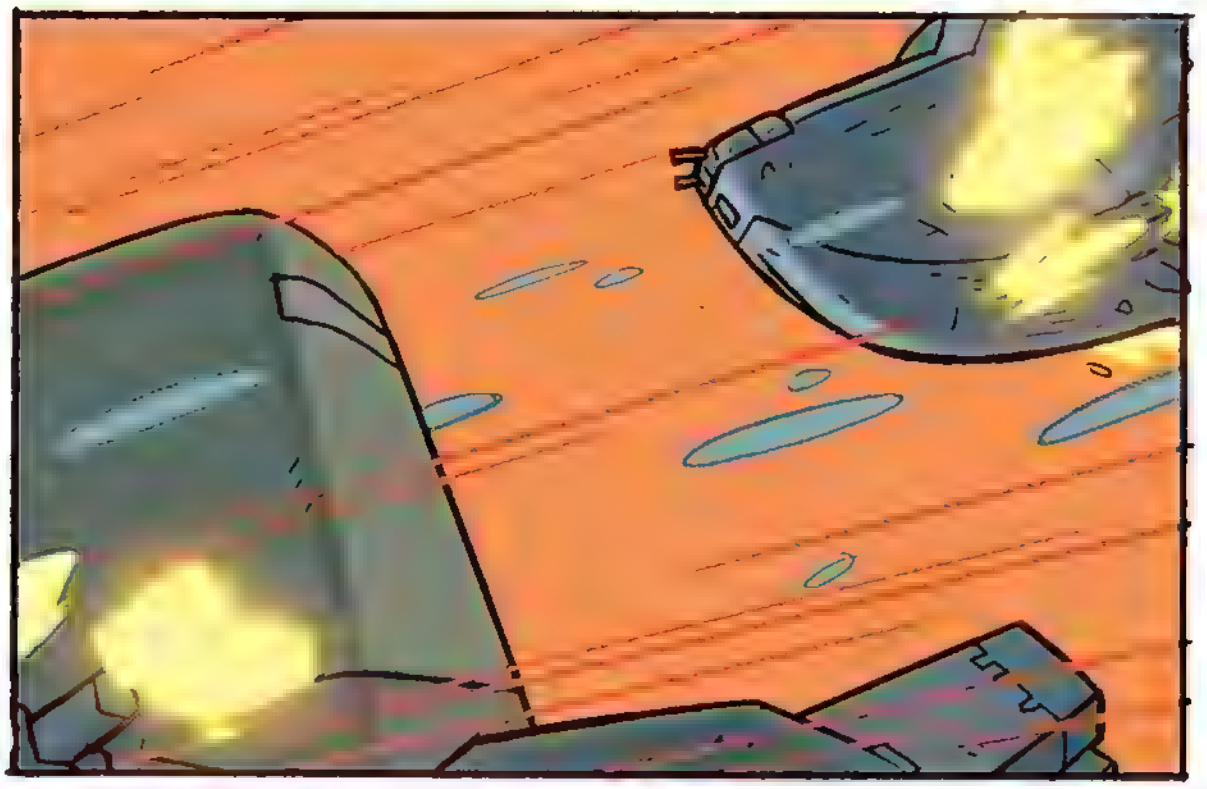
ROBO! COME IN! **GIRLS,** I NEED A SEARCH PARTY ASAP.

CHECK IN WITH--

-LAUREN!

HELL AND LIGHTNING.





LATER

JET PROTOTYPE CRASHES WITH FREIGHTER IN BAY; NO SURVIVORS

LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT.

YOU SAVED ***THE COUNTRY,*** AND IN RETURN ***THEIR*** COVER UP STORY IS ***OUR*** PROTOTYPE CRASHED INTO A FREIGHTER, ***SANK*** IT, AND KILLED ***EVERYONE*** ON BOARD.

THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN ALL THE PAPERS.

SO, NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE ***NOTHING*** TO SHOW FOR THE MILLIONS WE SPENT ***BUILDING*** THAT JET, BUT ***NOW*** EVERYONE THINKS WE WERE RECKLESS ENOUGH TO ***KILL CIVILIANS*** WITH IT?

THE ***FACT*** THAT INVINCIBLE JAPANESE WARSHIPS WERE LURKING OUT THERE WOULD SPARK A ***WILD-FIRE*** OF PANIC.

IMAGINE AN AMERICAN POPULACE *TERRIFIED* OF A THOUSAND *IMAGINED* THREATS. NO, *SOME ONE* HAD TO FALL ON THIS SWORD. AND IT WAS US.

THEN WHY'S IT FEEL LIKE WE WERE *PUSHED* ON IT?

THE COMPANY'S DEAD IF WE DON'T DO *SOMETHING*, ROBO.

ROBO?

YOU WITH US?

IF WE NEVER BUILT THAT PLANE, THOSE GIRLS WOULD STILL HAVE A HOME.

THEIR FRIENDS WOULD STILL BE **ALIVE.**

THEY SAVED MY LIFE OUT THERE AND IT **DESTROYED** THEM.

MAYBE **WE** DESERVE TO LOSE A FEW THINGS TOO.

I'M SORRY, MAY. IT'S MY--

NO.

WE *CHOSE* THAT LIFE.

NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT FROM US. NOT EVEN DEATH.

WE LOST GOOD WOMEN.

BUT THEY SAVED *MILLIONS* OF LIVES.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

WE'RE THE *SHE-DEVILS*, ROBO.

WE'LL DO WHATEVER THE *HELL* WE LIKE.

I HOPE YOU BROUGHT YOUR APPETITES.

LAUREN! LAUREN!

I SWEAR, THAT GIRL.

OH, I'LL GET HER.

DEPLOY MISSILES!

SHREWWWSH BOOM!

AUGH, I'M DYING!

ONLY CAPTAIN LAUREN CAN SAVE US NOW!

LAUREN, DEAR. TIME FOR DINNER.

COMING!

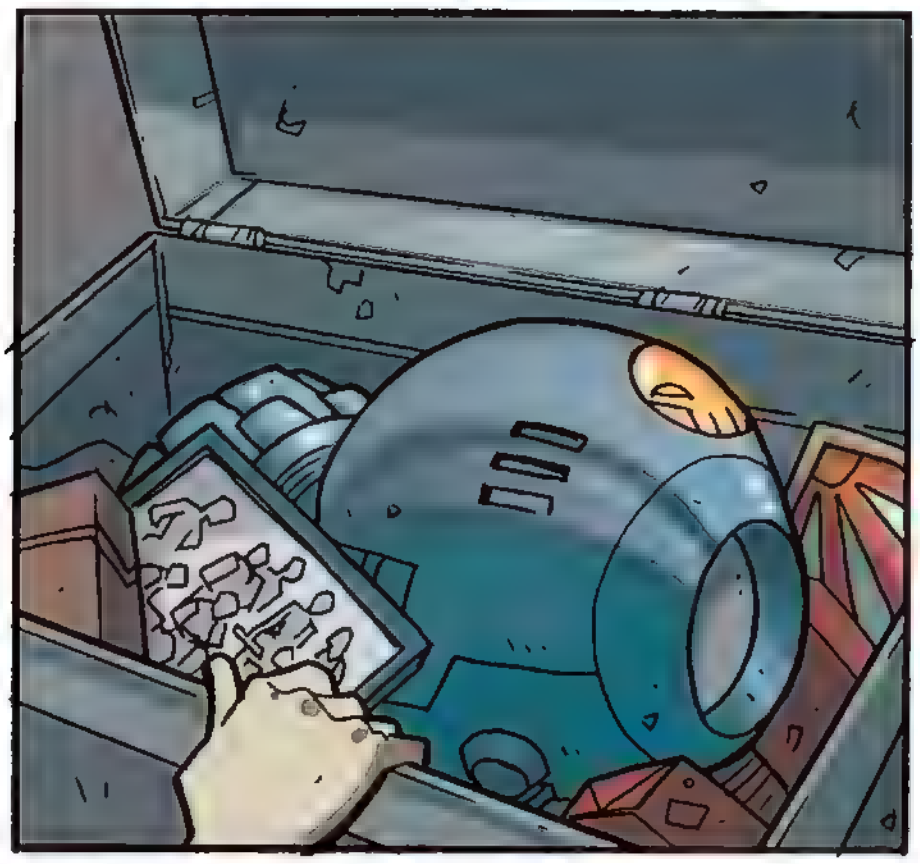
SOON AS I BLOW UP THE ARMY OF *SUPER ROBEAST HITLERS!*

CHAK

TK

I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN, GRAMMA!

COOOOL!



GRAMMA?

THE END

WELL, I WAS GONNA TAKE A SMALL DETOUR FIRST.

HEY, IT'S SPRING BREAK. I CAN'T SPEND THE ***WHOLE*** THING WITH MY LAME PARENTS.

NO, NOTHING ***THAT*** BAD. I'LL ONLY BE ANOTHER DAY OR TWO.

AND, ***YES,*** BEFORE YOU ASK, I'LL CALL AHEAD.

TERRA OBSCURA

JUST VISITING FRIENDS. OUT IN LANCASTER.

WELCOME TO CENTRALIA POP. 10

ALL GONE!

NOT LANCASTER

FORD

YES, DAD.

WARNING DANGER! UNDERGROUND MINE FIRES

ROAD CLOSED

YES, DAD.

YEAH. NO, I WILL. LOVE YOU TOO.

BYE.

WHOA!

THE ONLY QUESTION IS: SEPIA OR POLAROID FILTER?

NOM NUNCH NUNCH

POLAROID. DUH.

SO WEIRD. LIKE OSTRICH EGGS.

BUT MADE A'ROCKS.

HRUFF?

EWW, AND WARM.

KINDA STINKS IN HERE.

HRUFF!

HUWAAARGH!

CHOMP

MEANWHILE, NOT TOO FAR AWAY...

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? AMAZING!

YEAH. AMAZING.

CENTRALIA SITS ON AN UNDERGROUND COAL FIRE THAT'LL BURN FOR A ***THOUSAND*** YEARS. AND, OKAY, YEAH, THAT'S TRAGIC AND ALL, BUT IT MAKES FOR ***FASCINATING*** EXCAVATIONS!

I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT THIS...THIS... I'M NOT SURE ***WHAT*** THIS IS.

BUT LOOK AT IT!

THAT'S SUPER.

ROBO, I GET WHY ***HE'S*** HERE, BUT ***US?*** WHAT'RE THE ODDS WE'LL COME ACROSS SOMETHING ***DANGEROUS*** DURING BERNARD'S BIG DAY OUT?

JUNE 4, 1962
CENTRALIA, POP. 2,104

VOOP VOOP VOOP

KLANG

NO, ***DON'T!*** WE HAVE ***DOZENS*** OF EXPERIMENTS RUNNING DOWN HERE!

VOOP VOOP

NOT ANYMORE, Y'DON'T.

KLANG

I, UH, WELL.

HEY, LOOK AT THIS NEAT THING!

GOSH. A RADIO.

GONNA CRACK THIS OPEN.

SHOULD YOU DO THAT?

YEAH. WHAT IF IT'S A PETRIFIED PTERODACTYL OR SOMETHING?

GUYS, THAT IS *NOT* HOW IT WORKS. FOSSILS AREN'T JUST LYING AROUND UNDER BUSHES LIKE EASTER SUNDAY AT GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

HUWAAARGH!

MAYBE THAT WAS THE RADIO...?

THAT

WAS

WHAT *I'VE* BEEN WAITIN' FOR.

HUWAAARGH!

GAAAAAAHH!

FKSH

BWRONK!?

RUNNING
RUNNING
RUNNING!

FASTER
FASTER
FASTER!

TRUCK
TRUCK
TRUCK!

HOWAURGH!

NOPE.

BRAKKA DAKKA

CLICK CLICK

WHR WHR WHR

AUUURGH!

PWING

SNORT!

ACTION GEOLOGY!

FWAM

THIS IS WHERE YOU RUN BACK TO THE CAR.

THIS WAY! THERE'S A BRIDGE! SHORTCUT!

FWACK!

THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY.

KLONG

MEANWHILE, AT THE BRIDGE...

HECK OF A SHORTCUT, MAGELLAN.

IT WAS ON THE MAP!

UH, GUYS?

WHAT DOES THIS THING EVEN WANT?!

THE ROCKS.

HEY! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A TREE TO MAKE ME LEAF YOU ALONE!

I THINK I HATE ROBO.

IT'S THE ROCKS! ONLY THEY'RE NOT ROCKS, THEY'RE ITS EGGS!

HEY! HEY, UGLY! I GOT WHAT YOU WANT!

TOSS

HRUFF?!

GIVE UP?

G'NIGHT, GRACY.

UH, MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T INTRODUCE ***EXPLOSIVES*** INTO AN UNSTABLE ENVIRONMENT THAT'S ***ALREADY ON FIRE?!***

CORRECTION, YES WE SHOULD.

BOOM

SEE? IT ALL WORKED OUT.

HOW? THE TOWN IS STILL A SMOLDERING WASTELAND AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YONKERS DEVIL.

AND WE ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

WOW. THAT WAS PRETTY RAD.

WHAT WERE YOU EVEN ***DOING*** OUT HERE, KID?

UH. I'M IN THE MYCOLOGY PROGRAM AT PENN STATE, AND I WANTED TO SNEAK IN SOME FIELD WORK BEFORE HEADING HOME FOR SPRING BREAK, AND THERE WERE THESE ***ROCKS*** BUT THEY WERE ***EGGS*** I GUESS AND THEN THE MONSTER HAPPENED AND HI, MY NAME IS ELIZABETH FOLEY.

YOU KNOW WE OFFER INTERNSHIPS?

ACTION MYCOLOGY IS TOTALLY A THING.

MM.

THE END